

MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort (One Holiday Inn Drive, Asheville, NC 28806)

Tuesday, August 17, 2004

Attending:

Committee Members: Don Stedman, Chairman, Judy Lewis, Laura Coker, Ellen Holliman, Lou Adkins, Paul Gulley, Martha Macon, Ann Suggs, & Dave Richard

Division Staff: Alicia Graham, Judy Bright, & Flo Stein

Excused: Marvin Swartz, Mary Kelly

Handouts: Agenda, Task Force on Housing Final Report, & CAP-MR/DD Waiver Proposal

Welcome and Introductions

Don Stedman, Chairman, called the meeting to order. All attending made introductions.

Housing Task Force Report

Dr. Stedman stated that in putting the report together the task force studied issues of access, concentrated on non-clinical issues, looked at the varied definitions of housing and realized the major part of housing is at the Federal level. He wanted the main focus of the discussion today to be on what steps should be taken next to get the plan implemented. Once the report is adopted an operation and budget plan should be put in place.

Dr. Stedman stated that three key components in housing are bricks and mortar, housing operations and support services. He stated that in order to have housing you need to be employed and to be employed you need to have housing. In the discussion Laura Coker informed the group of the work that is being done in Forsyth County. She reported that they hired a housing specialist and received funds from their housing coalition. She also talked about their need for transitional housing and mobilization of families and consumers. Dave Richard stated that we have resources that we are not utilizing so we need to get organized to get things done. He also stated that we need to widen the array of housing and noted that service dollars are available through the DD Waiver. Flo Stein stated further that in the new service definition that there is support for people once housing is found. Lou Adkins stated that nursing homes “house” people but this is not always appropriate and that this needs to be addressed.

Flo Stein reported that a housing specialist has been hired at the Division and suggested that this person give an update to the Advisory Committee about housing issues at future meeting. Lou Adkins suggested that the Housing Specialist could keep data across disabilities. Dr. Stedman gave an example of how Agriculture collects data and how efficient they are as compared to our current system, which is fragmented and doesn't give a clear data picture. Judy Lewis wanted to know whether or not the LMEs were maintaining data much like that which was collected through the old Single Portal system. Dave Richard reported that the data is being collected at the local level in different ways currently.

In conclusion of the discussion Don stated the need for a public version of this housing report- not just for people with MH/DD/SAS. He stated that we want the broader business community to be behind the report and that we want to encourage and educate both elected officials and those running for office of the needs for housing. He also suggested that training workshops for County Commissioners and County Managers would be a need and that a champion for housing needs to be identified

Possible Agenda Topics for 2004-2005 Advisory Committee

Possible agenda topics for 2004-2005 year were given by Task Members and are listed below.

1. Monitoring service providers- training of monitors, who does the monitoring
2. Guardianship
3. Data collection
4. Access to health care
5. Medicaid-how to get people to qualify for Medicaid
6. Mental Health Parity Bill-encourage support for this

CAP/MR-DD Waiver Proposal: Flo Stein

Flo Stein, Chief, Community Policy Management, described the Comprehensive Waiver which was to be placed on the web for public comment the week of August 16. She compared this waiver with the Independent Supports Waiver which is scheduled to be written this fall. She complimented the work of Vivian Leon and Pattie French who had led the efforts of the committee in writing the Comprehensive Waiver (which will replace the current CAP/MR-DD Waiver) within the short time frame allotted. Committee members complimented the Division for setting deadlines and now meeting those deadlines. They complimented the work of Mike Moseley and Flo and asked that the minutes reflect these comments and individuals.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.